

New look, same name — Airman goes quarterly

As you may have noticed, Airman magazine has a new look — enhanced photography, new departments and a more visual layout and design. Additionally, Airman is now published quarterly versus monthly, to include the popular January almanac edition, “The Book.”

Like many programs throughout the Air Force, the magazine took a cut in funds to help support the global war on terrorism — therefore the June issue was not printed.

However, excerpts from the issue can be viewed on our Web site at www.af.mil/news/airman. The transition to a quarterly publication is a major turning point for the magazine which has been serving the total force since 1957. As the flagship magazine of the Air Force, Airman will continue to provide our audiences with features and information about Air Force people

Where's my Airman?

Does your unit get Airman magazine? If not, ask your information management office to obtain copies by e-mailing afnspub@afnews.af.mil. Send your unit address and indicate the number of copies (distribution ratio is one copy for every three people). Each unit — active duty, Guard and Reserve — is authorized a free subscription.

Be sure to distribute bulk copies of the magazine to every section of your unit and place them in high traffic areas such as customer service waiting rooms. Airman stories are about you — help us spread the word!

and missions through a fresh and exciting medium. We thank you for your continued readership and salute you — active duty, Guard, Reserve, civilians and contractors — for your devotion to duty and the sacrifices you make throughout the world.

— Capt. Christa D'Andrea, editor

Personal choices

I was disappointed to see the magazine glamorizing the choices of single military parents in the article “Kids, Yes ... Spouse, No” [May 2005], particularly

the individual who was proud that people forgot she was a parent.

As a single parent for more than five years, I can relate to the desire to not let your kids impede your service, but

I feel that's the wrong attitude. You can't raise a child in an hour a day and certainly not from half a world away. I understand the security the military seems to provide these parents, but they're missing out on the most important aspects of being a parent. The years you “sacrifice” for your country are years you can never get back. You can't retire at 39 and then be a parent to your children. Those years are gone forever.

Your article listed great resources and advice for the parents of children who have no control in this situation, but the article made it seem like those choices are admirable. I truly believe the service should discourage the single military parent lifestyle. But we all have to make our own choices.

As for me, I am getting out at the end of my enlistment. We may not live in as nice a house, but at least we'll all be together.

a Mom
Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

Everyone's vital

In “Service Not Honored” [Airmail, May 2005], an Airman complained about his career field not receiving mention, while he said other “less vital” jobs where highlighted.

I would like to know exactly what

are “less vital” jobs in the Air Force? Is it less vital that McGuire aircraft were overhead doing aerial refueling to the fighters providing air protection? Or maybe less vital are the security personnel who helped with force protection, or the services people that fed him?

All Airmen have important jobs, some may “seem” more important, but they all are necessary to complete the mission.

As members of the military, we shouldn't be focusing on the credit we receive, but should just be proud when we successfully complete the mission.

Tech. Sgt. David J Coakley
McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.

Ghosts among us

I enjoyed reading “Just Silly Ghost Stories” [October 2004] and would like to share my own story involving a missile site at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.

In August 1965, a civilian crew was working underground in the silo of this missile site and a fire erupted, killing 53 workers. The missile site was “off alert” for more than a year for repairs and the accident investigation.

In the years that followed, this site gained a reputation for ghostly activities. Many times missile crew members would come back from making daily shift verifications in the silo to find switches or valves in the wrong position with no rational explanation as to why. The site had a number of unexplained noises and a far greater share of “bad luck” events associated with it than any other site. Some crews even swore they could hear the cries of the trapped workers on the silo levels the bodies were found. Some crews even begged to not work at that particular site because of the stories.

As a missile crew commander, I only pulled a few alerts there, but can vouch for “strange happenings.” In 1986 I was there with an inspector general team, and my crew and I took some “hits” for equipment configurations not being correct when we swore the settings were right prior to the team's arrival.

Thanks for a great magazine. I've been reading it for years, while on active duty and as an Air Force contractor.

Carroll Sullivan
Hurlburt Field, Fla.

In Airman history ... 1962

A look back at the Air Force's past, told through the pages of Airman magazine



August 1962 (Pages 38-41)

USAF Aids South Viet-nam

As the communist pressures increase American training and supplies are expedited

Story and photos by
Lt. Col. Robert de T. Lawrence
Hq, U.S. Military Assistance Command,
Viet-nam

With the USSR relaxing pressure on Berlin, world attention at the time had shifted focus to the struggle for South Viet-nam to keep its independence.

In South Viet-nam, the objective was simple, “assist nations to remain free, and provide them with aid and assistance when they are threatened,” said Brig. Gen. Rollen Anthis, commander of the 2nd ADVON.

The U.S. Air Force had a large role supporting the country by training pilots and maintenance personnel, and supplying aircraft and other facilities.

“Our principal mission is to support and advise the armed forces of the Vietnamese,

specifically the VN air force, in the use of air and in so doing, we conduct training with them,” said the general.

And though the fighting in Viet-Nam was unusual and unconventional, air action became more effective over time, making the U.S. training efforts more valuable in the long run.

“The Vietnamese are pretty eager to learn. The biggest trouble is the language barrier,” said Tech. Sgt. L. Roe, from Langley Air Force Base, Va. “They are cooperative and want to learn — are friendly, have good common sense and they'll always meet you half way.”

Amidst the poorly defined battle lines, troops found solace in their tents — positioned near the Saigon airport. The city also offered a “motion picture house” as well as access to a commissary and BX. Just like home!



Cold case

I had to laugh at one of the captions from your feature on Antarctica, “Operation Deep Freeze” [April 2004]. The caption describes the big trucks that carry cargo from the C-141s to McMurdo Station across the “frozen ice.” I would just like to

point out the obvious — all ice is frozen.

All kidding aside, the article was extremely well-written and highlighted the mission well. Keep up the good work!

U.S. Air Force veteran
Fort Worth, Texas